

PATENT APPLICATION

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER ART UNIT 2853**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Atsuhisa NAKASHIMA

Group Art Unit: 2853

Application No.: 10/809,442

Examiner: G. MRUK

Filed: March 26, 2004

Docket No.: 119265

For: PRINTER MAINTENANCE APPARATUS

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. In reply to the May 16, 2007 Office Action, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims at least in light of the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,980,018 (Taylor). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

In particular, Taylor at least fails to disclose "a wiping mechanism being mounted on the mounting base and including a wiper base supported on the mounting base movably toward the nozzle surface and a wiper attached to the wiper base," as recited in claims 1 and 12.

The Office Action now relies on column 12, lines 48-52, and column 20, lines 22-25, as allegedly disclosing the above features. However, The Office Action's reliance on these portions of Taylor is misplaced for at least the following two reasons.

First, the portions of Taylor relied on by the Office Action regard the initial assembly of the device in Taylor (C12/L50). FIG. 4 illustrates the manner of supporting and aligning the pallet 120 with the base 102 and bonnet 110 of the service state frame 46 (C11/L30-32). Importantly, it is clear that the description relied on by the Office Action shows the z-axis alignment during initial assembly, not during any maintenance operation.

In this respect, Applicant respectfully notes that "maintenance" as the term is used in Applicant's specification refers to maintenance of an assembled printer by cleaning the nozzles with a wiper (see, e.g., page 12, line 21-page 17, line 6). It does not encompass disassembling or assembling the printer.

Second, even if the term "maintenance" could be read broadly enough to encompass initial assembly, Taylor still fails to disclose a "wiper base supported on the mounting base movably toward the nozzle surface," as recited in claims 1 and 12.

It is alleged by the Office Action that the wiper mounts 190 are equivalent to the claimed "wiper base," the service station frame 46 is equivalent to the claimed "mounting base," and the wiper 150 is equivalent to the claimed "wiper." However, Taylor only discloses that the rear end of the service station base 102 (and thus the service station frame 46) may be raised or lowered (C12/L51-52). That is, the wipers 150 and 152 of Taylor are raised or lowered together with the service station frame 46. Thus, the wiper mounts 190 of Taylor are not mounted on the service station frame 46 in a manner that wiper mounts are movable toward the nozzle relative to the service station frame 46.

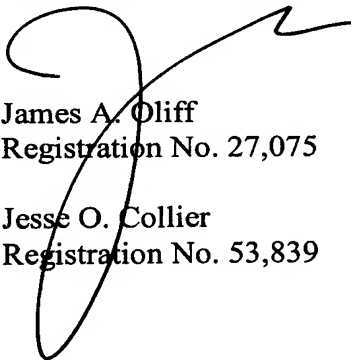
Thus, Taylor fails to disclose a "wiper base supported on the mounting base movably toward the nozzle surface," as recited in claims 1 and 12. Accordingly, claims 1 and 12 are

patentable over Taylor. Further, claims 2-11, 13, and 14 are patentable for at least the reasons that claims 1 and 12 are patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicant earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: August 16, 2007

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